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Elementary economics.—Notice may be given of a book¹ which is not at all available as a textbook for elementary-school students but of a type which would be very helpful to teachers for their own personal enlightenment on topics that they have to discuss in one form or another before their pupils. We live in a period when economic problems are in the minds of all sorts of people. The daily discussions of the class can hardly fail to touch on such matters as the struggles between labor and capital and the facts of the high cost of living. The teacher who is unacquainted with the principles of economics is at a distinct disadvantage in holding his or her place in the community and in answering some of the questions that will inevitably be presented by children who are confronted at home by all sorts of problems of living. Sooner or later there will be introduced in the elementary course detailed instruction in some of the selected phases of economics. The progressive teacher should foresee this coming in of a new type of material and should prepare himself by his own personal readings for that period. This book will be useful for this purpose.

School gardening and elementary agriculture.—Professor Kern of the College of Agriculture of the University of California has prepared a large body of suggestions² with regard to the making of home gardens and their use as a part of the school program. The common tools necessary for this work are described and the methods of their use are discussed. The plants which can advantageously be used are taken up both from the practical point of view of their availability for school gardens and from the scientific point of view where they are described as materials for nature study. The two pamphlets taken together make a good introduction to the whole field of practical school activities now so common where vacant lots and school gardens furnish either during the summer or during the regular school year an opportunity for wholesome outdoor study of nature.

Philippine education.—The annual reports of the Director of Education in the Philippine Islands have long been of interest to students of education because they exhibit a school system deliberately prepared to fit the social conditions of the people who are being educated by this system. The Philippine Islands have been in matters educational as progressive a laboratory as one can find anywhere in the world. American teachers who went there in the early years made up their minds that a traditional education such as had been developed in the United States would not fit these new conditions. The central officers who had charge of the educational experiment in the Philippine Islands were quick to recognize the success of the work done here and there by progressive Americans. They found that making work a part of the educational scheme stimulated the native children to an interest in reading and number which could not be secured in any other

¹ GRAHAM A. LAING, *An Introduction to Economics*. New York: Gregg Publishing Co., 1919. Pp. xi+454.

² O. J. KERN, *Outline Studies on the School Garden, Home Garden and Vegetable Growing Projects*. Pp. 63. *Outlines of Course of Instruction in Agricultural Nature Study for the Rural Schools of California*. Pp. 55. Berkeley, California: College of Agriculture, University of California, 1919.